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Topic: Ebola Updates

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Background: Ebola, previously known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus strains. Ebola can cause disease in humans and non-human primates. Ebola viruses are found in several African countries. Ebola was first discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, outbreaks have appeared sporadically in Africa. The natural reservoir host of Ebola virus remains unknown; however, on the basis of evidence and the nature of similar viruses, researchers believe the virus is animal-borne and bats are the most likely reservoir.

The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history, affecting Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in West Africa. There were a small number of cases reported in Nigeria and a single case reported in Senegal; however, these cases are considered to be contained, with no further spread in these countries.

Laboratory: Suspect cases (meeting BOTH the clinical and travel/exposure criteria defined by CDC) identified in Iowa will be sent to CDC for testing. Testing will generally be performed within 24 hours of specimen receipt at CDC. If an entity in Iowa has a possible patient with Ebola, immediately consult with the Iowa Department of Public Health. IDPH, in collaboration with SHL, will assist in assuring testing is completed and actions are taken to prevent spread in Iowa.

IDPH Actions: IDPH has activated an incident management structure to organize meetings; develop state and local tracking procedures and fact sheets; develop message templates; and other communication tools.

Any suspected cases of Ebola (according to the CDC Guidelines) should be reported immediately to IDPH by phone at **800-362-2736, option 1**.

More information about the Ebola outbreak may be found on the IDPH web site at

[www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Ebola Outbreak](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Ebola%20Outbreak)

Since 10/20/14, IDPH preparedness activities include:

1. IDPH has communicated regularly with the Governor's Office, state agencies, local public health agencies, hospitals, and other public and private partners.
2. Conducted Ebola briefing webinars with local public health, hospitals, EMS, and school nurses.
3. Established a weekly Ebola briefing webinar for local public health, hospitals, and EMS to provide current Ebola information. Links to guidance, checklists, and factsheets are available on an IDPH Ebola website at [www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Ebola Outbreak](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EHI/Issue.aspx?issue=Ebola%20Outbreak).
4. The State Hygienic Laboratory is providing Ebola related guidance at www.shl.uiowa.edu/news/ebolaupdate.xml.
5. Issued a press release related to IDPH Ebola preparations and provided press release templates to local partners.
6. Developed self-monitoring guidelines for individuals who have traveled to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, but have no known exposure to Ebola.
7. IDPH is finalizing a Respiratory Protection Plan for IDPH health responders.
8. Continued to respond to numerous inquiries from healthcare providers and citizens regarding both specific and general concerns.
9. Authorized hospitals and local public health agencies to use federal preparedness funds to support acquisition of personal protective equipment and provision of training for staff.

Current International Case Counts

Updated 10.25.2014

Source: www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html

| Country | Total Cases | Lab Confirmed Cases | Total Deaths |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Guinea | 1553 | 1312 | 926 |
| Liberia | 4665 | 965 | 2705 |
| Sierra Leone | 3896 | 3389 | 1281 |
| Total | 10114 | 5666 | 4912 |

Count of Individuals Under IDPH Public Health Orders for Ebola

Updated 10.26.14

There are no suspected or confirmed cases of Ebola in Iowa. No persons in Iowa are being tested for Ebola.

| Type of Action | # of Individuals Currently Under an Order | Total # of Orders Issued since 9.1.14 |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Self-Monitoring Order | 4 | 4 |
| Quarantine Order | 0 | 0 |
| Isolation Order | 0 | 0 |

Only state-level data is released to the public. Because of the small number of travelers returning to Iowa from Ebola-affected countries in West Africa, the release of county-level data could lead to identification of an individual, which is in violation of Iowa Code Chapter 22.

Current U.S. Case Counts, confirmed by CDC Updated 10.25.2014

Source: www.cdc.gov/

| State | Cases | Total Deaths |
|----------|-------|--------------|
| Texas | 3 | 1 |
| New York | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 4 | 1 |

Four cases of Ebola have been confirmed in the United States: one case imported; two healthcare workers that were exposed to the imported case; and one healthcare worker exposed in Guinea.